REMARKS

Claims 1-4 and 6-11 remain in the application including independent claims 1 and 6. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the features of claim 5. Claim 5 has been cancelled. Claim 8 has been amended to overcome the 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, rejections.

Claim 3 has been amended to include the claim language as originally filed, i.e., "that the supply leads (10, 11) are formed by ferrite-loaded wires," as addressed in examiner's response to arguments (item 16) in the subject office action. In the previous amendment, applicant inadvertently labeled claim 2 as claim 3 when claim 3 was amended to remove the multiple dependencies. Applicant apologizes for any confusion this has caused. Applicant assumes that all claim objections have now been overcome.

Claims 1 and 4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Takiguchi. Claims 2-3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takiguchi and Wille. Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 5.

Claims 5-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takiguchi in view of Lau. Claims 5 and 6 include the feature of each of the brushes being separately connected to the casing by at least one noise suppression capacitor. The Examiner admits that Takiguchi does not disclose this feature and argues that the teachings of Lau can be used in combination with Takiguchi to achieve this feature.

First, Lau does not disclose, suggest, or teach separately connecting each brush to a motor casing. Lau teaches a motor where each commutator segment 32 is connected to the casing with a capacitor 44 (see Fig. 3). The capacitors in Lau do not separately connect each brush to the casing as claimed by Applicant.

Second, even if Lau did teach to separately connect each brush to the motor casing, there is no motivation or suggestion to modify Takiguchi with Lau. One of the benefits of the Takiguchi motor is that the noise preventing circuit is designed to be easily incorporated inside the motor to achieve better performance without requiring significant redesign of the motor, see col. 1, lines 26-68. Takiguchi utilizes choke coils 6, 7, and pigtails 34, 35 to connect each brush 26, 27 to a common capacitor 8 mounted inside the motor housing 3 to an end plate 4. To modify Takiguchi to utilize additional capacitors inside the motor (admitted in Lau to be of significant size at col. 1, line 39) would add additional components inside the motor making packaging more difficult and possibly increasing motor casing size. Thus, the modification would destroy the benefit of the design achieved by Takiguchi. It is improper to modify a base reference in a manner that destroys the benefits of the base reference, thus applicant believes the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) is improper.

Claim 11 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takiguchi in view of Lau and further in view of Wille. Claim 11 is also patentable over this combination for the reasons discussed above with regard to the combination of Takiguchi and Lau.

Thus claims 1-4 and 6-11 are allowable over the prior art, and an early indication of such is earnestly solicited. Applicant believes that no additional fees are due, however, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-1482 in the name of Carlson, Gaskey & Olds for any additional fees or credit the account for any overpayment.

Respectfully submitted,

Kerrie A. Laba, Reg. No. 42,777
Carlson, Gaskey & Olds
400 W. Maple Road, Ste. 350
Birmingham, MI 48009
(248) 988-8360

Dated: July 19, 2002

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION UNDER 37 CFR 1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States patent and Trademark Office, fax number (703) 305-3432, on July 19, 2002.

Laura Combs

APPENDIX A
Claims

(Version With Markings to Show Changes Made)

1. (Amended) Noise suppression system for a permanent-magnet motor for activating a functional device in a motor vehicle, in which the motor (1) includes supply brushes (8, 9) connected to an external power supply (12) by leads (10, 11) and a metal casing (2), characterized in that each brush (8, 9) is separately connected to the metal casing (2) of the motor (1) [through] by at least one noise suppression capacitor (13, 14), in that the metal casing (2) of the motor (1) is connected to the vehicle's earth (at 15) and in that the metal casing (2) of the motor and the functional device have complementary means for earthing the casing.

3. (Twice Amended) System according to Claim 1, characterized in that the supply leads (10, 11) are [associated with inductors (16, 17)] formed by ferrite-loaded wires.

8. (Amended) A system according to claim 7 wherein said casing is grounded via connection to said vehicle [function] functional device.